



Townsend Town Council Special Meeting
April 25th, 2023 @ 6:00 pm
VIA CONFERENCE CALL &
Town Hall
141 Main St, Townsend, DE 19734

6:00 pm Town Council Special Meeting

I. Call to Order: 6 pm.

II. Opening Ceremonies

A. Roll Call: Mayor S. Lobdell,
Councilwoman S. Rojas,
Councilman J. Mertz,
Councilman E. Dugan,
Councilwoman E. Clarke,

Financial Officer J. Helms, Chief of Police R. Longo, Town Manager A. Tantillo, and Town Clerk M. Rivera, and Town Solicitor C. Griffiths.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Recognition of Visitors: Steve Seidman via zoom and Dwain Haines.

D. Announcements:

1. Mayor announced he spoke at the Chamber of Commerce event that occurred last week and advised the Town received recognition for the Back-to-School Event.

III. Citizens Comments & Participation

A. None.

IV. Adoption of Agenda.

A. *CM Mertz made a motion to adopt the agenda. CW Rojas seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yeas.*

1. Council adopted agenda.

V. Reports:

A. Town Manager Antonina Tantillo

1. **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible vote to authorize the work to the Town Park gazebo façade.

a. TM Tantillo explained the stonework on the Gazebo has deteriorated requiring repair. TM Tantillo advised per inspections from Town Staff and the Town's Insurance Assessor, damage is not a result of vandalism. TM Tantillo is awaiting the final report from the Insurance Assessor to determine if or how much coverage they will provide.

b. Council discussed the following quotes as presented by TM Tantillo:

i. Roger Rullo:

a) The price range for replacement cost is \$17,800.00 to \$19,000.00.

ii. Gary Rullo:

Town Meetings will return to both an in person and a virtual format.

Those wishing to attend virtually may dial **1(301)715-8592**. When directed, provide following meeting ID **827- 6421-7575#** and then the following password **361631#** to enter the meeting. If you choose to access the meeting online click the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82764217575?pwd=aHI4RDhTZ0xiME1HV0ZOcHRxSHZ3QT09>

Residents will be able to view documents posted to the meeting tab on the Town website at <https://townsend.delaware.gov> or by joining the meeting via computer.

- a) The replacement cost is \$24,900.00.
- b) The repair cost is \$14,500.00.
- iii. EDIS:
 - a) The cost to repair two sections is \$18,126.00
 - b) The cost to replace all the stone is \$35,886.00
 - c) The cost to replace all the stone with stucco is \$24,126.00.
 - d) TM Tantillo noted the Town has used this company for chimney repairs at Town Hall.
- c. *CM Mertz made a motion to table the possible vote to authorize the work to the Town Park gazebo façade until final results are received by the Town's insurance company. CW Clarke seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*
 - i. Council voted to table possible vote to authorize the work to the Town Park gazebo façade.

VI. Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: Chair: Mayor Lobdell, Co-Chair: Councilman Dugan

1. **ACTION ITEM:** Discussion and possible vote regarding Resolution 2023-006 A Resolution to Affirm the Adoption of the FY 24 Municipal Budget.
 - a. Mayor Lobdell introduced the discussion and possible vote regarding Resolution 2023-006 A Resolution to Affirm the Adoption of the FY 24 Municipal Budget.
 - b. FO Helms provided an overview of the FY 24 Budget Presentation prepared.
 - c. TM Tantillo advised Town Council they may further discuss the budget in executive session.
 - d. Town Council discussed each line item of the FY 24 Budget and options for how the Town may proceed with hiring additional police officer(s).
 - e. Town Council compared the approved FY 23 Budget and the proposed FY 24 Budget.
 - f. Mayor Lobdell noted for the record that the police department building addition was removed and explained that at the Finance Committee meeting Chief Longo confirmed an additional police officer was more important over expansion of the Police Department Building.
 - g. Chief Longo noted for the record if a layoff were needed due to budgeting, he would opt for the layoff. Chief Longo explained he wants to ensure the Town is protected.
 - h. Town Council agreed to vote after executive session, noting further discussion is needed regarding the FY 24 Budget.

VII. Recess Council Meeting to Convene Executive Session.

- A. CM Dugan made a motion to recess Council Meeting to convene Executive pursuant to 29 Del. C. §§10004(b)(2) and (4), the Town Council will consider a motion to meet in executive session*

for a strategy session, which will include legal advice or opinions from an attorney-at-law, with respect to potential litigation, as well as discussions that may have an adverse effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the Town ; and pursuant to 29 Del. C. §10004 (B)(9), to address personnel matters. CW Rojas seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.

1. Council recessed meeting at 8:19 pm.

VIII. Convene Executive Session: Pursuant to 29 Del. C. §§10004(b)(2) and (4), the Town Council will consider a motion to meet in executive session for a strategy session, which will include legal advice or opinions from an attorney-at-law, with respect to potential litigation, as well as discussions that may have an adverse effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the Town ; and pursuant to 29 Del. C. §10004 (B)(9), to address personnel matters.

A. Executive session convened at approximately 8:36 pm.

IX. Close Executive Session & Re-convene Council Meeting.

A. Council meeting reconvened at approximately 9:56 pm.

X. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible vote on the acquisition of real property.

A. CM Mertz made a motion to allocate ARPA funds for the real estate purchase and authorize the Town Manager to finalize the contract for real estate purchase in Town. *CM Dugan seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*

1. Council voted to purchase real estate in Town.

XI. Adjournment.

A. *CM Mertz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. CW Rojas seconded the motion. Voice vote of Council: all yea's.*

1. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm.